

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 and 21-39 are pending. Claim 20 is canceled. New claims 21-39 are submitted for consideration. Support for the new claims is found in the original claims and throughout the specification generally.

Allowed Claims

Applicant appreciates the previous indication that claims 1-19 are allowed. Claims 1-7 and 9-19 remain pending as previously examined. Claim 8 is amended to delete the phrase "for any twelve hour period" to provide greater clarity in this claim. It is believed that this amendment does not affect the scope of claim 8 and it should be allowed for the same reasons that previous claim 8 was allowed.

New Claims 21-30

Claims 21-30 relate to processes for producing vinyl alcohol/acrylamido copolymers in which at least two polymerization reactors are used in the process. Claims 1-19 were previously allowed over the cited art because there is no teaching or suggestion in the art to use two reaction zones in the process. For this reason alone, it is believed that new claims 21-30 are in condition for allowance.

Section 103 Rejection and New Claims 31-39

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103 in view of JP 62-33241 to Moritani. Claim 20 is canceled and rewritten as new claim 31. Claim 31 recites a process for producing a vinyl acetate/acrylamido copolymer in which at least two polymerization reaction zones are used for successive polymerizations.

Previous claim 20 was rejected under Section 103 in view of the Moritani reference. The rejection concluded that the Moritani reference discloses a polymerization process involving one reaction zone and that claim 20 was considered to read on this disclosure. Claim 31 clarifies that the claimed process involves at least two reaction zones.

As discussed above, the process claims for producing vinyl alcohol/acrylamido copolymers were allowed for the reason that the claims recite at least two reaction zones. Since claim 31 recites at least two reaction zones, it is allowable over the prior art for this reason alone.

New claims 32-29 depend form claim 31. Since claim 31 is in condition for allowance, claims 32-39 are believed to be in condition for allowance as well.

CONCLUSION

Consistent with the foregoing, claims 1-19, and 21-39 are believed to be in condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance for these claims is respectfully solicited.

It is believed that this submission is fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. However, should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below so that all matters may be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Encl. New Claim Set (4 pgs)